



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PATENT APPLICATION

Applicants : William L. Thomas et al.

Application No.: 09/829,806 Confirmation No.: 9835

Filed : April 10, 2001

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Group Art Unit : 2623

Examiner : Annan Q. Shang

New York, New York 10020

January 18, 2007

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

## REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed October 19, 2006, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in light of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 23 of this paper.